WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Flights Handled at major airports

799. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the international and domestic flights currently being handled at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata airports;

(b) the projected increase in the flights at these airports in the next three years; and

(c) the steps proposed for upgradation of the major airports for flight and passenger handling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During 2004-05, number of international and domestic flights handled airport-wise are Mumbai (43743, 109423), Delhi (38409, 83714), Chennai (18111, 43122), Bangalore (7032, 48515) and Kolkata (7568, 34806) respectively.

(b) Projected increase in international and domestic flights during the next three years at these airports are as under: 2005-06 - Mumbai 46805. (118177), Delhi (41482, 90411), Chennai (19922, 47434), Bangalore (8369, 54375), Kolkata (8098, 37242); 2006-07 - Mumbai (50081, 127631), Delhi (44800, 97644), Chennai (21914, 52176), Bangalore (9875, 60900), Kolkata (8665, 39849); 2007-08 - Mumbai (52585, 135289), Delhi (47936, 103503), Chennai (23667, 57395), Bangalore (11060, 66990), Kolkata (9098, 42240) respectively.

(c) Airports Authority of India has taken up various upgradation works relating to provision of integrated terminal buildings, modern passenger amenities, strengthening and extension of runway, apron, aircraft parking stands, taxiways, aerobridges, as also strengthening of services of Air Traffic Management, at major airports to handle the increase in the aircraft movement.

Expansion of runway at Patna Airport

†800. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that length of the runway of Patna airport is less in comparison to the the runways of other national level airports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the expansion thereof, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The physical runway length at Patna airport is 7500 feet and usable length is 6400 feet due to presence of obstacles (trees) in the approach path. State Government of Bihar has been requested by this Ministry as well as by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to prune/cut the trees identified to required safe height. But, Government of Bihar is yet to take action in this matter.

Once all the identified trees are pruned, the usable length of runway will increase to 7000 feet and it will be suitable for operation of A-320/B- 737-800 type of aircraft with less load penalty. Further extension of runway is not feasible due to site constraints.

Old Aircrafts with AI

801. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the last time Air India ordered new planes for its fleet;

(b) the details of new planes bought by Air India in the last three years;

(c) to what extent Air India is using planes which exceed 15 years age;

(d) whether it is a fact that safety and speed are ignored by Air India; and

(e) the steps proposed to upgrade the fleet of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India had last placed a letter of intent in August, 1991 with M/s. Boeing Company for delivery of four 747-400 aircraft to be delivered in 1993 and 1994. There were options available which were exercised in the year 1996 for delivery of two more 747-400.

(c) The details of aircraft which are more than 15 year of age are 9 x B747-337C, 3 x B747-437 and 3 x B 747-200 (these three aircrafts are phased out from Air India's fleet but not deregistered).